

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00655 190845Z
ACTION EA-09

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LY, RP
SUBJ: MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT LEADER PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY. MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT LEADER NURI MUSUARI
HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI MAY 16. MNLF LEADER STATES
FRONT HAS "LOST FAITH" IN PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. VOWS TO
CONTINUE STRUGGLE. CALLS FOR SUPPORT FROM ISLAMIC COUNTRIES.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE PHILIPPINE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT LEADER
NURI MUSUARI HELD PRESS CONFERENCE HERE IN TRIPOLI, MAY 16,
IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED "HIS FRONT HAD LOST FAITH AND TRUST
IN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IN REACHING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION
TO THE PROBLEM. HE APPEALED TO THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
MEETING HERE TO SUPPORT THE FRONT MATERIALLY AND
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POLITICALLY "UNTIL FULL FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF
THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES." MUSUARI ALSO APPEALED TO
THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
AND "ALL PEACE LOVING PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THE MUSLIM
CAUSE AND CONDEMN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS
"CONTINUED VIOLATION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND ALL
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS." MUSUARI ACCUSED THE

PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OF "SETTING ASIDE THE PEACE AGREEMENT WIGNED IN TRIPOLI." HE ALSO ACCUSED THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OF BEING FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BREAKDOWN OF TALKS HELD UNDER THE FOUR-PARTY COMMITTEE OF THE ISLAMIC CONGRESS. MUSUARI CLAIMED THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAD SHOWN ITS INTENTION OF NOT ABIDING BY THE TRIPOLI AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE SOLVED THE USLIMS PROBLEM AND CREATED A PERMANENT PEACE. HE STATED THAT IT WAS CLEAR TO THE MUSLIMS OF THE WORLD THAT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT "WAS PLAYING FOR TIME TO AMASS ITS FORCES FOR THE ELIMINATE OF MUSLIMS, THEIR RELIGION AND EXPLOIT THEIR RESOURCES." THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT LEADER STATED THAT THE REFERENDUM HELD IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES, WHICH WAS REJECTED BY THE ISLAMIC CONGRESS COMMITTEE AFTER ITS REGOTIATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, WAS A PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT MANEUVER IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE TRIPOLI ACCORD. MUSUARI ACCUSED THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OF VIOLATING THE CEASE FIRE MORE THAN 200 TIMES SINCE IT CAME INTO EFFECT LAST YEAR. HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT TROOPS WERE SENT WITH WESTERN WEAPONS TO ELIMINATE MUSLIMS AND THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT VIOLATED ALL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS BY ITS REFUSAL TO RELEASE PRISONERS AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE TRIPOLI AGREEMENT.

2. MUSUARI CLAIMED THAT HIS FRONT HAD GIVEN CONCESSIONS ON EVEN ITS BASIC AND LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO FULL INDEPENDENCE BY AGREEING TO AN AUTONOMOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGION WHICH LEFT 40 PERCENT OF THE MUSLIM REGION IN THE HANDS OF THE MANILA GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THIS WAS AGREED UPON BY THE FRONT AS A RESULT OF AN APPEAL FROM THE ISLAMIC CONGRESS AND THE FRONT'S DESIRE FOR A PERMANENT PEACE IN THE AREA. THE MNLF LEADER SAID THAT DESPITE SUCH CONCESSIONS WHICH HAD "NEVER BEEN GIVEN BY AN REVOLUTIONARY BODY STRUGGLING FOR INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM IN HISTORY," THE MANILA GOVERNMENT SHOWED INTRANSIGENCE, REFUSED TO RESPECT THE AGREEMENT IT SIGNED AND SHUNNED ALL PEACE EFFORTS. THUS, HE DECLARED, THE MORO LIBERATION FRONT NO LONGER TRUSTED THE MANILA GOVERNMENT FOR ANY PEACE SETTLEMENT. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE FRONT WILL CONTINUE TO "RESOLUTELY AND DETERMINANTLY CONFRONT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT UNTIL IT ACHIEVES ITS GOAL OF FULL INDEPENDENCE." MUSUARI SAID THE FRONT ATTACHED GREAT HOPES TO THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT AND COLONEL QADHAFI, WHO IS A SUPPORTER OF "ALL PEOPLE STRUGGLING FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE." MUSUARI THEN THANKED LIBYA, QADHAFI

AND THE ISLAMIC CONGRESS AND COUNTRIES WHICH ATTEMPTED
TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES.
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